

## Global Committee meeting update October 2015

### Committee meeting update

On 29 October 2015 the Global Committee met for the last meeting of the January 2014 to December 2015 term. The Committee noted updates against the action plan, including the following:

- In September 2015, Committee representatives presented evidence to a Senate Committee public hearing on Australia's bilateral aid to Papua New Guinea, advocating for the importance of ongoing aid for eye health in PNG.
- Advocacy efforts to maintain funding for eye health in Asia and the Pacific have been successful, with some funds secured from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Solomon Islands Government for eye health and vision care. Advocacy has also raised the profile of eye health and vision care with key stakeholders in Papua New Guinea.

The Committee discussed that the Vision 2020 Australia Regional Strategy is due for revision in light of changes to Australia's foreign aid landscape. Members agreed to participate in a full day workshop to revise the Regional Strategy and discuss options for future collaboration.

The Committee was also provided an overview of the Sustainable Development Goals, and it was reported that Vision 2020 Australia will send a letter to the Australian Government highlighting the importance of including key eye health and vision care indicators in the Sustainable Development Goal Indicator framework.

The Committee extensively considered Vision 2020 Australia's draft Federal Election campaign plan and policy platform for 2016, providing feedback and input that will be considered as these documents are finalised. It was particularly noted that Vision Summits are planned for mid to late February with the Liberal Party of Australia (to be held in Sydney), the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Greens (both likely to be held in Melbourne).

Finally, the Committee discussed achievements over the January 2014 to December 2015 term and provided recommendations for advocacy to carry forward. Members were advised that the committee member survey had gone live and a call for nominations for the January 2016 to December 2017 term had been sent out.

### Organisations represented

- Australian College of Optometry
- Brien Holden Vision Institute

- CBM Australia
- Centre for Eye Research Australia
- The Fred Hollows Foundation
- Foresight Australia
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness - Western Pacific Region
- Lions Australia
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
- Sight for All
- Vision Australia

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